

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BRIGHAM CITY COUNCIL  
JULY 31, 2008**

PRESENT:	Bruce Christensen	Councilmember
	Scott Ericson	Councilmember
	Reese Jensen	Councilmember
	Ruth Jensen	Mayor Pro Tem
	Bob Marabella	Councilmember
ALSO PRESENT:	Jim Buchanan	Emergency Services Director
	Mary Kate Christensen	City Recorder
	Blake Fannesbeck	Public Works Director
	Bruce Leonard	City Administrator
	Art Peterson	Fire Chief
	Dennis Sheffield	Finance Director
	Paul Tittensor	Chief of Police
	Gregg Weight	Ambulance Chief
EXCUSED:	Lou Ann Christensen	Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen called the meeting to order and excused the Mayor who was out of town. The Reverence Period was given by Councilmember Christensen. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes: Councilmember Christensen noted on page 3 of the July 14, 2008 work session, proofs should be "proves." Also in the July 16 minutes on page 1 the decimal in the dollar amount should be a comma. A motion to approve the minutes of July 14 and 16, 2008 as amended was made by Councilmember Christensen. The motion was seconded and carried.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Presentation to the Fire Department for Certifications**

Hugh Conner, Director of the Utah Fire and Rescue Academy, and Laurie Haus came forward. Ms. Haus explained that the Department Recognition Award was designed to recognize departments for their hard work and dedication in receiving certifications. Brigham City was first certified in 1996. Since that time there has been over 153 certifications throughout the department. She presented the Gold Award to the Brigham City Fire Department for being 100% certified in hazmat awareness. They are also certified at the bronze level in Fire Fighter I, which is about 75%. Chief Peterson came forward and received the awards from the Utah Fire and Rescue Academy. He stated that getting certified in hazmat awareness is very difficult. They would be certified in Fire Fighter I at the Gold Level except for the six new firemen. They will be certified by the end of the year.

Mr. Conner added that for a volunteer Fire Department to not only obtain certifications, but to also maintain certifications year after year is extraordinary. One of the biggest accomplishments of a volunteer fire service is to maintain that level of certification, and the Brigham City Fire Department has done that.

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen presented the agenda as follows:

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**CONSENT**

New Hire, Public Works

Request to Write-off Accounts Due to Resident Taking Out Bankruptcy or Being Sent to Collections

**SCHEDULED DELEGATION**

McGruff Program

Report on 2006 Olympian Legacy Grant Project, Youth City Council

Report on 2006 Olympian Legacy Grant Project, Friends of the Bird Refuge

Preliminary Report on the Brigham City Cultural Assessment and Plan

**NEW BUSINESS**

Report on July 4th Fireworks

Recommended changes to Sewer Rate Schedule

**MAKING LIFE BETTER - DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **CLAIMS**

Payment Register

Councilmember Ericson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Councilmember Ruth Jensen read the following letter from Leon R. Jeppesen.

*"You asked for citizen input regarding the proposed sports complex vs. an expansion of the City Administration Building. I don't think we can afford either right now. You have raised the utility rates about \$1.33/month minimum plus more for both water and electricity pending use which will be about \$5.00/month; these increases seem to come regularly.*

*"The article in the paper stated that either option would require a bond election but would not raise taxes for the following reasons:*

- The swimming pool bond was retired in 2006;*
- The golf course bond will be retired this year;*
- In 2010 the fire/ambulance bond will be paid off.*

*"The article states that without spending more money we could receive a reduction in taxes of about \$108 per year. If I remember correctly that is close to what the \$26 million school bonds will cost us. There is no reason to think we will have fewer taxes to pay. They all come from the same taxpayers pocket regardless of who gets them.*

*"A few years ago the sewer bonds were paid off, did we get some tax relief? What happened? Today I still pay \$26.35 per month. Does it cost as much to maintain this system as it did to build? We did not get relief when the swimming bond was paid off in 2006, why? I would like to be surprised and see a reduction in taxes when we pay something off and not try and find a place to spend it. Let me find a place for my money.*

*"Let's think outside the box for a few minutes and see if we can find other solutions. The City does own some idle property. Maybe we should look at it first.*

- Box Elder County needs a new courthouse. How about giving them the Dance Academy, they could restore that grand old building and put it to use full time instead of maybe one event a month? This may not save the County money, after they restore it, but it would save the City now and on future maintenance. This building is located downtown which is desirable for the new court.*
- I think the old historic building next door to the 'new court house' (Jack's Auto Parts, B.P. Newman) would make a great new facility for the Police Department.*
- I know the Brigham City West Stake owns a sports facility with three underutilized ball diamonds; could it be used during the day time for youth events? Are there other facilities within the City that could be used?*

*"Let's look at all options and then tighten our belts until the economy looks better. Is a UTOPIA bail out in our future? Let's not take on more long term obligations right now."*

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen asked Mr. Leonard to respond to Mr. Jeppesen's letter.

### **CONSENT**

#### **New Hire, Public Works**

It was recommended Grant Geilman be hired as a part-time Grounds Maintenance Worker I, Grade 35, effective August 4, 2008.

**Request to Write-off Accounts Due to Resident Taking Out Bankruptcy or Being Sent to Collections**

A list of accounts totaling \$2,310.22 was presented to be removed from the City's system due to the customer taking out bankruptcy or being sent to collections.

MOTION: A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Councilmember Marabella, seconded and carried.

**SCHEDULED DELEGATION**

**McGruff Truck Program**

Mr. Dave Burnett from the Brigham City Power Department came forward and stated that the City has been involved with the McGruff Truck Program for the last 14 years. Just before Brigham City got involved in the McGruff Program there was a young girl in Corinne that was riding a bicycle and was abducted and assaulted. The participants in the McGruff Program have decided to make a rededication to this program. They have formed a formal committee and they will be more pro-active in keeping the program running

Mr. Mike Milne, Deputy Director of the Utah Counsel for Prevention of Crime, said he has given the City's McGruff Committee a video on McGruff driver training. He presented a video on what the school children will be seeing in the schools. The video will be presented during an hour-long assembly at the schools.

**Report on 2006 Olympian Legacy Grant Project - Youth City Council**

Rebecca Dilg and Linda Baugh, Directors of the Youth City Council (YCC), came forward. Ms. Dilg stated that the YCC follows the spirit of the 2002 Olympic Spirit by having government activities and projects and doing service activities. Belonging to the YCC provides an uplifting opportunity to provide service to the communities as well as associate with their friends. They are finding ways to collaborate with other non-profit organizations. They helped clean up the canyon with the Smithfield Youth City Council for the Forest Service. They collaborated with the Chamber of Commerce on the BooFest and Junior Peach Days Parade. They did a food drive for the Food Pantry and worked with the Spade and Hope Club. They wanted to reward the youth for these activities and encourage other youth to participate, however, they did not have the extra funds to do that. This grant gave them the vehicle to be able to provide scholarships. This money was given to five graduating seniors based on their participation. The following year their numbers doubled.

She expressed appreciation to the Council for the opportunity to serve with the youth and also for the grant money.

**Report on 2006 Olympian Legacy Grant Project - Friends of the Bird Refuge**

Mr. Jon Bunderson stated that the Friends of the Bear River Refuge is a support organization of the Bear River Bird Refuge. There are five individuals who have worked as the Board of Trustees of that organization. They received a grant from the 2006 Olympian Legacy Grant and mingled it with other contributions to fund an education program for the 4th graders in Brigham City and surrounding areas. They had over 4,000 students participate. They also used these mingled funds to produce a 30-minute movie they will be showing at the Visitor's Center. He presented a teaser of the movie. The full movie should be ready to be shown at the Visitor's Center by Fall 2008.

**Preliminary Report on the Brigham City Cultural Assessment and Plan**

Roger Manning, Beth Gurrister, Paul Larsen and Patrick Overton came to the table. Mr. Manning explained that the Academy Square Foundation is looking for a place to locate their Foundation Office. They feel they need a place that is very visible and a place they can use for storage, a place for communication and a place for meetings. They requested they be allowed to rent a portion of the Newman Building and use it for a Foundation Office.

Mr. Overton stated that when the Foundation received their grant from the Utah Arts Council, part of the grant was to be used to do community cultural planning, to create a cultural plan that is connected to what is being done with the Academy Building and establishing a cultural district. He presented a draft copy of the cultural plan that has been adopted by the Heritage and Cultural Arts Advisory Board and the Academy Square Foundation Board of Directors.

Mr. Overton reported that they will be sending out requests for proposal next week. He added that the Board has been working on a brochure on the story of the Academy Square Project.

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen suggested a work session be scheduled to discuss the Cultural Assessment and Plan. This will be scheduled at a later date.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Report on July 4th Fireworks**

Chief Art Peterson, Randy Parsons and Jerry Petersen came forward and reported that the Brigham City Fire Department has been doing the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks since 1974. Chief Peterson stated that everyone that goes into the pit has to be certified in pyrotechnics. There were over 45 firemen in the pit and all of them are pyrotechnic certified. He added that Parks & Recreation budgeted \$15,000 for fireworks, which is a pretty accurate amount. They have a committee that decides what to get and what kind of program to do. Randy Parsons has been in charge of that committee for several years. This year they were not able to get the mortars they wanted so they built their own. They donated their time and some materials were donated. They had approximately \$1,400 in materials, of which \$700 was donated. They pay for the fireworks eight months in advance and receive a 20% discount.

It took 330 man hours from the time they started with the fireworks in June. Mr. Parsons stated that the show consisted of 1,850 rounds, some of which are preloaded in the boxes. They manually shot off 950. The finale consisted of 150 shots wired together. The entire show lasted 28 minutes.

Mr. Buchanan stated that they are going to put together a committee to look at fundraisers to try and raise money to cover the continuing costs to provide the quality fireworks that Brigham City residents have become accustomed to.

### **Recommended Changes to Sewer Rate Schedule**

Mr. Sheffield came to the table and explained that this is mainly a change in classification, explaining which groups are involved in which rate schedule and a new classification for the County Jail. This resolution has been approved by the Public Utility Advisory Board. He recommended that the new rates be postponed for the County Jail until January because that is when their budget year starts. This will allow them time to budget for this increase.

MOTION: Councilmember Marabella made a motion to approve the recommended changes to the sewer rate schedule as presented, with the understanding that the rate for the County Jail will not be adjusted until January 1, 2009. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Christensen. The voting was unanimous with the following vote:

Councilmember Christensen - aye  
Councilmember Ericson - aye  
Councilmember Reese Jensen - aye  
Councilmember Ruth Jensen - aye  
Councilmember Marabella - aye

## **MAKING LIFE BETTER - DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Rising Fuel Costs - Mr. Leonard said the Mayor created a Task Force, with Jim Buchanan as the Chair, to look at the feasibility of converting City vehicles to compressed natural gas. They will report to the Council on August 21. Mr. Leonard stated that he talked to the directors about increased fuel prices and that they needed to stay within their budgets as approved by the Council. They will have to look at ways to control their fuel expenses. Mr. Openshaw, Fleet Manager, has sent a memo to all departments recommending that they use the State Fueling Site at the mouth of Box Elder Canyon. It is approximately 20¢ a gallon less there. Mr. Openshaw did some projections and he estimated fuel costs for the City will increase \$150,000 more than last year if it goes to \$4.00 a gallon for gas and \$5.00 for diesel. Mr. Leonard added that the City does not pay taxes on gas, which is 65¢ a gallon, so the City is not paying \$4.00 a gallon yet. Councilmember Marabella said the Police Department will have the greatest challenge because they cannot really cut fuel which is a big

part of their budget. He suggested looking at each department and asking them to cut 5% across the board to help compensate for departments that cannot cut fuel. Mr. Leonard said they are not to that level yet.

400 North Bridge - Mr. Fonnesbeck reported that the structural engineering firm looked at the bridge and determined that the bridge is damaged so much that it is barely able to hold itself up, so City staff closed it off. They will put together a cost estimate to repair it. Preliminary costs for just the bridge is \$72,000-\$95,000. This does not include the foundation or labor. He added that staff will start a yearly maintenance program to check all the bridges in town.

## **CLAIMS**

### **Payment Register**

Councilmember Ericson moved to approve General Claims dated July 17, 2008 in the amount of \$982,392.70; for July 30, \$84,054.35. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion to adjourn to an Executive Session was made by Councilmember Marabella. A roll call vote was taken in which all councilmembers voted aye. The meeting adjourned to a closed session at 8:57 p.m. The Council returned to an open meeting at 9:35 p.m. and adjourned.